

Information for Educators

What is the WKCE?

The Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Examination (WKCE) is customized to measure the Wisconsin Model Academic Standards (WMAS). Students in grades 4, 8, and 10 take the test in Science and Social Studies. The WKCE is administered to all students enrolled in grades 4, 8, and 10 in Wisconsin public schools during the fall of each school year.

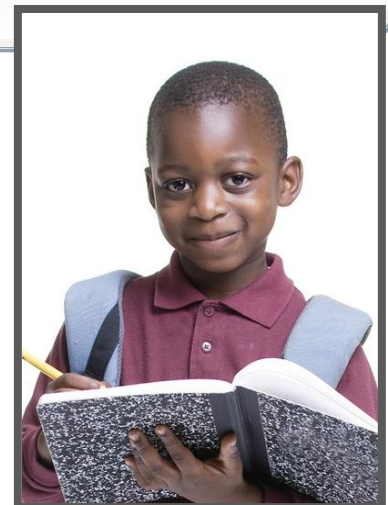
The purpose of the WKCE is to provide information about student attainment of subject-area proficiency to students, parents, and teachers, information to support curriculum and instructional planning, and a measure of accountability for schools and districts.

How are the test results used?

The WKCE test results provide parents with information about student achievement.

The results from Fall 2014 WKCE Science and Social Studies tests are used by the Department of Public Instruction (DPI)

- to meet the federal Title I (NCLB) requirement to determine how well students are learning, and
- to determine the extent to which schools and districts across the state are meeting the Wisconsin proficiency standards.



What types of scores will be provided?

The WKCE provides information about what students know and can do in relation to the Wisconsin Model Academic Standards. Students receive scores based on their performance.

- **Advanced** - Demonstrates in-depth understanding of academic knowledge and skills tested on WKCE for that grade level.
- **Proficient** - Demonstrates competency in the academic knowledge and skills tested on WKCE for that grade level.
- **Basic** - Demonstrates some academic knowledge and skills tested on WKCE for that grade level.
- **Minimal Performance** - Demonstrates very limited academic knowledge and skills tested on WKCE for that grade level.

When does WKCE testing take place?

WKCE testing for the fall 2014 administration takes place between October 27 and November 7, 2014.

How to prepare students for the WKCE.

Test preparation activities should promote life-long test-taking skills and should be infused within classroom instruction. Preparation for assessments should not focus on specific test questions or items; rather instruction should be focused on the Wisconsin Model Academic Standards.

District Suggestions:

- The purpose, method of test administration, time frame, and approximate release and use of results should be clearly communicated to teachers, students, and parents.
- Ensure that the curriculum and instruction are aligned to the State Standards.

Classroom suggestions:

- Teach general test taking skills. These skills should not interfere with a Scannable test format though.
 - Familiarize students with the format of the assessment (timed sessions, format of selected response and constructed response items).
 - Remind students of the importance to answer each item completely by filling in the appropriate answer bubbles.
 - Teach students of strategies to make educated guesses when uncertain of an answer.
 - Remind students of time management strategies (skipping items and then returning to them later; double checking work and answers at the end of a session).
- Explain the importance of avoiding extraneous marks in the booklet.
- Practice test-taking skills.

Teacher Suggestions:

- Encourage your students to do their best.
- Minimize student anxiety by modeling confident behavior.
- Create a positive assessment-taking attitude for the students.
- Review administration manual prior to proctoring each session.
- Ensure appropriate test security measures before, during, and after the administration.

Where can I find sample test items?

Sample items are available at <http://oea.dpi.wi.gov/assessment/WKCE>. These questions are similar to actual test questions that may be asked on the WKCE. WKCE test questions are not released.

More information

More information about the WKCE is available at <http://oea.dpi.wi.gov/assessment/WKCE>.

